

In the Drawings:

In Figure 19:

Change reference numeral "111" to --211--.

Change reference numeral "112" to --212--.

Change reference numeral "114" to --214--.

Remarks

Summary

The title of the invention, the specification, and Claims 4 and 9 have been amended and Claims 6, 7, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice to overcome formal objections thereto. In addition, amended independent Claims 1 and 9 recite at least one feature not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the patent to Ishikaza et al. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 9-11, 15, and 16 are pending, with Claims 1 and 9 being independent. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto, and Claims 1-4, 9-11 and 15 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form. Claims 5-8 and 12-14 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 16 has been newly added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Title Objection

The title has been objected to and the Examiner requires a new title that is clearly indicative of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicants have herein amended the title so that it is even more clearly indicative of the claimed invention..

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to for failing to show that the developer discharge opening is directed upward when detecting the remaining amount of developer, as recited, for example, in Claims 9 and 12. In response, Applicants submit that Figure 11, for example, shows the light guide means 20 (i.e., the detector) directed upward during detection.

Drawing Amendment

Applicants have herein amended Figure 19, to correct typographical errors therein. A corrected formal drawing of Figure 19 is attached.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to for minor informalities therein. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the objections, to correct minor and typographical errors therein, and to improve the form of the specification.

Formal Claim Objections

Claims 4, 6, 7, and 9-14 are objected to for minor informalities in Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, and 12. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have canceled Claims 6, 7, and 12 without prejudice and amended Claims 4 and 9 to address the points raised by the Examiner.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the patent to Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,020). In addition, Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the patent to Ishikawa et al. in view of the patent to Sundquist (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,549).

Response to Substantive Rejections

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to a developer supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, comprising a developer supply container body configured to contain developer, a discharge opening, disposed at a peripheral surface of the developer supply container body, configured and positioned to permit discharge of the developer therefrom, a feeding device configured and positioned to feed the developer toward the discharge opening by rotation of the developer supply container body, and a detection member configured and positioned to detect the amount of the developer remaining in the developer supply container body. The detection member has a detection area which at least partially overlaps the discharge opening as seen in a direction perpendicular to a rotational axis of the developer supply container.

Amended independent Claim 9 relates to a developer supply container which is detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus including a developer receiving container provided with a developer receiving opening and a rotation member, the developer supply container being holdable by the rotation member together with the developer receiving container to permit revolution of the developer supply container. The developer supply container comprises a container body configured to contain developer, a developer discharge opening disposed at a peripheral surface of the container body, configured and positioned to permit discharge of developer therefrom, a feeding device configured and positioned to feed the developer in the container body toward the developer discharge opening communicating with the developer receiving opening by revolution of the developer supply container, and a detection member configured and positioned to detect the remaining amount of the developer in the container body when the developer discharge opening is directed upward. The detection member has a detection area disposed substantially opposite to the developer discharge opening.

In contrast, the patent to Ishikawa et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest a detection member that has a detection area which at least partially overlaps a discharge opening as seen in a direction perpendicular to a rotational axis of the developer supply container, as recited in Claim 1, and as shown in the attached modified and annotated version of Figure 15 of the Ishikawa et al. patent. In addition, this patent is not understood to disclose or suggest a detection member having a detection area disposed substantially opposite to the developer discharge opening, as recited by Claim 9, and as shown in the attached modified and annotated version of Figure 15 of the Ishikawa et al. patent.

For these reasons, independent Claims 1 and 9 are understood to be allowable over the Ishikawa et al. patent.

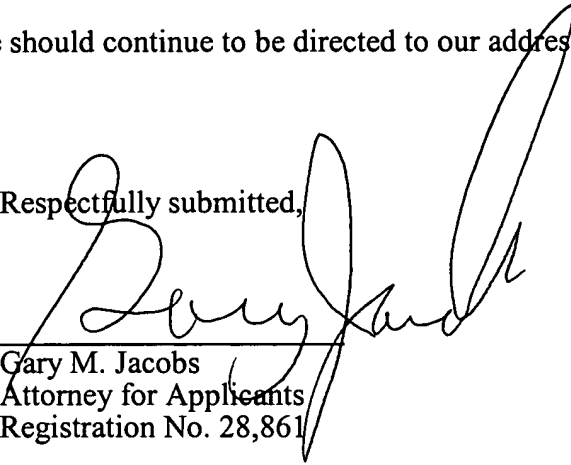
The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ:ayr

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